

Wise crackin' Marlowe on tape

"In the movies, there's only two classes of picture — first class and no class," quips Philip Marlowe, the private eye to end all private eyes invented by Raymond Chandler. Let's hope that the *Marlowe* — *Private Eye* collection just out on Palace Video comes into the first class bracket. It's certainly a first-class bargain for Chandler fans; to celebrate their first birthday, Palace are presenting the five one-hour films on two cassettes for the price of one.

The Chandler series is an Anglo-American production which has never been seen in this country but was warmly received in America. The films are based on the widely-read detective thriller stories written by America's Raymond Chandler, and star Powers Boothe as Philip Marlowe.

Faithful to the original stories, they depict a world of good-time girls, crooked politicians and gunmen set against a backdrop of the glamorous 30s and 40s.

JVC's clever new portable

This month we have revealed the development by Sanyo of Betamovie — but after Betamovie is launched, what is there for the home movie gadget freak to look forward to next?

The answer will probably come from JVC, if the latest innovation in their professional range is an indication. What they have done is to fit into a portable U-Matic recorder two sets of heads: one for recording and one for replay, to operate at the same time. What you see through the camera viewfinder is not an optical view of what you are shooting — not even the output from the tube — but the actual recording on the tape, replayed through the viewfinder as monitor about half a second after the recording was made. This means you see what you are actually recording, rather than what you ought to be recording: failure-hardened movie makers will know that is not always the same thing.

Of course the viewfinders are still black-and-white so you can't use it to check colour balance, but no doubt that will be the next thing. JVC will launch the U-Matic version in September, but they won't say if or when the domestic VHS version is coming. Never mind — it will give us something to look forward to.



Horror's famous four

Four kings of horror star together for the first time in *House of the Long Shadows*, just out on Guild Home Video. The plot hangs around an author who bets his publisher he can write a novel in 24 hours at Baldpate Manor, a house which hasn't been lived in since before the war, but finds it more gruelling than he had imagined. Guild describe the film as being "full of all the required horror ingredients plus the best horror cast of all time". Sounds like something no self-respected horror buff should be without! Pictured above (for non-buffs) are the four horror kings, from top left to right: Christopher Lee, Vincent Price, John Carradine and Peter Cushing

